

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATION.

F. B. CARPENTER, M. D., Chairman.

Among the many bills introduced in the Legislature at the session just closed, those affecting medical matters were quite numerous; as for that matter they are at every session, and seem to be annually on the increase. Of them all, however, but two received serious consideration at the hands of the Sacramento Solons. One of these was a bill drawn in the interest of the Naturopaths, establishing a Board of Naturopaths, to be appointed by the Governor, and legalizing those already practicing Naturopathy in the State. This bill had a large following in both houses, was championed by strong leaders and stood a good prospect of passing as it was framed. In lieu of this an amendment to the present medical law was finally drafted which admitted to practice (legilized) those Naturopaths who were already in practice and required all Naturopaths who might hereafter apply for license to practice, to take the examinations of the State Board.

This bill as amended was finally passed, signed by the Governor, and is now a part of the State Medical Law. After the passage of this bill another bill, putting the appointment of the Board of Examiners in the hands of the Governor, and establishing reciprocity with other States, passed both houses, and needed only the Governor's signature to make it a law, when it would have replaced the present amended statute and we would have enjoyed the luxury of a political Board, and the privilege of exchanging compliments with other States, the standards of which are as questionable as would be the policy of the average political Board.

After this bill had passed both houses, Dr. Parkinson, who at the time was keeping in close touch with the Legislature and their doings, succeeded in securing its reconsideration by the Senate, when it was fortunately defeated by a small majority. It has always been the policy of your Legislative Committee, and we believe it to be the correct policy, to oppose any legislation which will place the appointment of the Board of Examiners in the hands of the Governor. Such an appointing power is undesirable, not that the Governor would not do his duty according to his best advice, but that he must depend for that advice upon consultation with a few of his personal friends or acquaintances, rather than upon the collective judgment of the assembled profession. It has, also, been our policy to oppose reciprocity with other States, for the reason that many States recognize the certificates issued by other States; and to recognize one, recognizes all with which that one may reciprocate; and as there are many lax and political Boards throughout the country, such a course would expose California to an influx of licentiates with all sorts of credentials. The high standing of the California State Board has gone abroad through the land, and since we have set the mark high, let us maintain it.

I recall that some years ago the address of the President of this Society dealt very liberally with

the question of "the Doctor in Politics." It was forcibly argued that the doctor should take an interest in public questions, and it was shown wherein he might be of service to the general public.

Now, here is further argument why he should under certain conditions, become a public man, so-called. The medical man, as a member of the State Legislature, is well qualified to pass upon many questions coming before that body. Much matter of importance is referred to him by his colleagues, and his judgment and opinion respected by those with whom he associates. Experience in matters political has shown the advisability of there being more medical men in the State Legislature. The medical man in either house can do more to correct the ways of the average politician than can a whole County Medical Society from afar. I know of no one better fitted to adorn politics than the doctor, and to him we look to make political position an honor, and to reflect credit upon his party and his profession.

Now, adopt the practical side of this question, and make it your business within the coming year and years, to see that when there is a legislative opening in your district, that it is filled by a doctor. It will be to his credit, to your advantage and to the advantage of all the people.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE YEAR 1908-1909.

F. C. E. MATTISON, M. D., Chairman.

Mr. President and Members of the Society:

The work of the Public Health Commission during the last year has been largely educational, the major efforts being directed to inducing the country public health committees to take up the work in more aggressive fashion.

As the commission has striven to solve the many problems still before us, it began to realize the needs of a closer and more comprehensive organization; an organization that would weld together in a federated union all the public health agencies of California, viz.—the California State Board of Health, the California Public Health Officers Association, the Public Health Commission of the Society, the District Public Health Officers Association, and the County Medical Association Public Health Committees, and in an advisory capacity all other organizations and individuals working for these same ends.

A call has therefore been issued for such a meeting to be held at San Jose during this meeting, and it is hoped that that conference will enable such a union to be brought about.

There is a great need for concentrating all public health activities in a central body and of giving to our State Board of Health, the power that is now distributed among some lay boards, like the Dairy Commission.

As a majority of the members of the Executive Committee of this Public Health Commission live in Southern California, they have sought personally